

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A flexible mold for producing a PDP back surface plate ~~including a rib region having ribs having a predetermined shape and a predetermined size and a non-rib region occupying at least a part of a peripheral portion of said rib region~~, comprising:

a support and a molding layer disposed on said support;

wherein said molding layer ~~is equipped on a~~ comprises a rib formation surface thereof with a groove pattern[[s]] having planar portions that connect the grooves with one another necessary for duplicating ribs having a predetermined shape and a predetermined size in a rib formation portion corresponding to said rib region of said back surface plate; and in a rib non-formation portion corresponding to a non-rib region of said back surface plate, said molding layer is formed to a thickness necessary for forming a thin film made of the same material as that of said ribs in said rib non-formation region and a non-rib region occupying at least a part of a peripheral portion of said rib formation surface wherein the non-rib region has a thickness less than the planar portions that connect the grooves.

2. (original) A flexible mold as defined in claim 1, wherein said support and said molding layer are transparent.

3. (previously presented) A flexible mold as defined in claim 1, wherein said molding layer is equipped in said rib region with a portion necessary for forming a thin film made of the same material as that of said ribs between adjacent ribs.

4. (previously presented) A flexible mold as defined in claim 1, wherein inclination is applied to a terminal portion of each of said groove patterns in said molding layer.

5. (previously presented) A flexible mold as defined in claim 1, wherein corners are removed from an upper end portion of a sidewall of said groove pattern.

6. (previously presented) A flexible mold as defined in claim 1, wherein said molding layer further includes alignment marks applied to said rib non-formation portion.

7-19. (cancelled)

20. (original) A PDP back surface plate comprising a substrate having formed thereon a rib pattern layer having a rib region having ribs having a predetermined shape and a predetermined size and a non-rib region occupying at least a part of a peripheral portion of said rib region, wherein a thin film made of the same material as that of said ribs is formed to a predetermined thickness in said non-rib region.

21-34 (cancelled)

35. (new) The PDP back surface plate of claim 20 wherein the thin film has a thickness that approaches zero.

36. (new) The flexible mold of claim 1 wherein the support is made of at least one plastic material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene naphthalate, stretched polypropylene, polycarbonate, and triacetate.

37. (new) The flexible mold of claim 1, wherein the molding layer consists of a cured product of a curable material selected from the group comprising a photo-curable (meth)acrylate monomer, a photo-curable (meth)acrylate oligomer, and mixtures thereof.

38. (new) The flexible mold of claim 37, wherein the curable material is selected from the group consisting of urethane acrylate, polyester acrylate and polyether acrylate.

39. (new) The flexible mold of claim 1 wherein the groove pattern is a straight pattern consisting of a plurality of grooves portions arranged substantially in parallel with one another.

40. (new) The flexible mold of claim 1 wherein the groove pattern is a grid pattern.

41. (new) The flexible mold of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the non-rib region is within the range of 5 to 40 μm .

41. (new) The flexible mold of claim 1, wherein the groove pattern is chamfered.

42. (new) A method of producing a PDP back surface plate comprising:

providing a flexible mold according to claim 1;

arranging a curable molding material between a substrate and the molding layer of the flexible mold, thereby filling said molding material into the groove patterns and applying a the molding material to the non-rib region;

curing said molding material; and

removing the flexible mold.

43. (new) The method of claim 42 wherein the molding material is a ceramic paste.